GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6362
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
BILATERAL TIES WITH SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any new bilateral relationship with the South-East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the trade relationship with each of the South-East Asian Countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The following bilateral Agreements have been signed with South-East Asian countries recently:

With Thailand: (November 2001 and February 2002)

- Agreement on Scientific, Technical and Environmental Cooperation and Transfer of Technology;
- Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes; and
- MOU on the Collaboration in Information Technology and Services.

With Myanmar: (February 2002)

- MOU for electrification of a village in Myanmar through solar energy.

With Indonesia: (April 2002)

- Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders;
- MOU between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Lembaga Penerbangan Dan Antriksa Nasional (LAPAN) (Indonesia National Institute of Aeronautics and Space) on Cooperation in the field of Outer Space Research and Development; and
- MOU for setting up of Vocational Training Center for Construction sector.

With Singapore: (April 2002)

- MOU for cooperation in the field of Telecommunications; and
- MOU on the Loan of Artifacts to the Asian Civilizations Museum of Singapore.

With Cambodia : (April 2002)

- Agreement for Conservation/Restoration of a Ta Prom Temple Siam Reap, Cambodia;
- Agreement relating to Air Services; and
- Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport holders.

(c) Enhancement of trade relations with South-East Asia is an ongoing process. Steps taken in this direction include frequent interactions both at Government as well as industry and trade level; mechanisms such as Joint Trade Committees; exchange of trade delegations; and participation in exhibitions and fairs.